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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

College of William and Mary,

IN VIRGINIA.



RICHMOND:

GARY & CLEMMITT, PRINTERS.

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GIFT
ESTATE OF
WILLIAM C. RIVES
APRIL, 1940

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Soon after the settlement at Jamestown, (1607,) fifteen thousand acres of land were appropriated at the instance of Sir Edwin Sandys, President of the Company in England, to endow a University, to be established at Henrico, for the Colonists and Indians. About the same time, (1619,) fifteen hundred pounds were contributed in England, through the Bishops, to endow a College in Virginia for the Indians; and a little later, (1621,) one hundred and fifty pounds were subscribed to endow the East India School at Charles City, and one thousand acres of land, five servants and an overseer allotted to it. This was designed to be preparatory to the University at Henrico. Mr George Thorpe, a gentleman of his Majesty's privy Chamber, came over to be the Superintendent of the University; but was on the 22d March, 1622, with three hundred and forty of the Colonists, including a number of the College tenants, killed by the Indians. This disaster followed by the troubles in the Mother Country, and at a later period by the discontent and disorders in the Colony, which were produced mainly by the arbitrary rule of Sir William Berkeley, the Royal Governor, and which culminated in Bacon's Rebellion, prevented any renewal of the attempt to establish a College in the Colony of Virginia till the Revolution of 1688, which seated William and Mary on the English Throne, and inaugurated a better state of things.

In 1688 and '89, efforts for a College were renewed, and twenty-five hundred pounds sterling subscribed by a few wealthy Virginians and benevolent English merchants. The Colonial Assembly, in 1691, approved the scheme, and sent the Rev. Mr. James Blair, afterwards Commissary of Vir-

ginia, to solicit a charter from the Crown. Queen Mary, to whom Mr. Blair first unfolded the object of his visit, was well pleased with the noble design, and zealously espoused it. William concurred with her, and they gave "out of the quit-rents" two thousand pounds towards the building. Mr. Blair was directed to convey to Seymour, the Attorney General, the royal commands to issue the charter. "Seymour remonstrated against this liberality, upon the ground that the nation was engaged in an expensive war; that the money was wanted for better purposes, and that he did not see the slightest occasion for a College in Virginia." The Rev. Mr. Blair represented to him that its intention was to educate and qualify young men to be ministers of the Gospel, and begged Mr. Attorney would consider that the people of Virginia had souls to be saved as well as the people of England. "Souls!" exclaimed the imperious Seymour; "damn your souls, make tobacco!" The charter of the College was prepared however, and signed on the 8th day of February, in the fourth year of the reign of William and Mary, which date corresponds under the new style with the 19th of February, 1693. It was granted "to the end that the Church of Virginia may be furnished with a seminary of ministers of the Gospel, and that the youth may be piously educated in good letters and manners, and that the Christian faith may be propagated amongst the Western Indians to the glory of Almighty God." The third act of the Virginia Assembly, in the fifth year of the reign of William and Mary, provides; "That Middle Plantation (now Williamsburg) be the place for erecting the said College of William and Mary in Virginia, and that the said College be at that place erected and built as neare the Church now standing in Middle Plantation old fields as convenience will permitt."

Trustees named in the Charter were constituted the body corporate to establish the College, and to appoint Masters or Professors, but were required after the establishment to

transfer to the President, Masters or Professors, or their successors, the lands, inheritances, chattels, &c.

The Charter further provides, that the College "shall be called and denominated forever "the College of William and Mary, in Virginia;" and the President and Masters, or Professors of the said College, shall be a body politic in deed and in name."

It was further provided, that after the transfer of the corporate powers, the Trustees should be "the true, sole and undoubted Visitors and Governors of the College."

The Charter confirms to the President and Masters, or Professors, that there shall be a Chancellor of the College; appoints "the Reverend Father in God, Henry, by Divine permission, Bishop of London," first Chancellor, and requires that the Visitors and Governors of the College shall elect a discreet person to this office every seven years.

Towards the endowment of the College, William III. and Mary contributed one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five pounds fourteen shillings and tenpence, raised out of the quit-rents of the Colony, and at that time in the hands of William Byrd, Auditor; one penny a pound on all tobacco exported from Virginia and Maryland; the office of Surveyor General with all its issues, fees, profits, advantages, conveniences, liberties, places, privileges, and pre-eminences whatsoever; ten thousand acres of land lying on the south side of Blackwater Swamp, and ten thousand acres lying in that neck of land, commonly called Pamunky neck, between the forks of York River.

The faculty had the right to elect either one of their own body, one of the Visitors of the College, or "one of the better sort of inhabitants of the colony," to represent the College in the House of Burgesses.

The College building was planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and it was designed, says Beverly, "to be an entire square when completed." The first commencement exercises were held in 1706, "at which there was a great con-

course of people; several planters came thither in coaches, and others in sloops from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, it being a new thing in that part of America to hear graduates perform their exercises. The Indians had the curiosity, some of them, to visit Williamsburg upon that occasion; and the whole country rejoiced, as if they had some relish of learning."

The General Assembly of Virginia "was held at his Majesty's Royal Colledge of William and Mary" from 1700 until 1705, when, together with library and philosophical apparatus, it was destroyed by fire. "The fire broke out about ten o'clock at night in a public time. The Governor and all the gentlemen that were in town came up to the lamentable spectacle, many getting out of their beds. But the fire had got such power before it was discovered, and was so fierce, that there was no hope of putting a stop to it, and therefore no attempts were made to that end." The second building was commenced in the time of Governor Spottswood; but owing to the want of available means, and the scarcity of workmen, it was not finished until 1723. In 1719 it was occupied by the Convention of the Colonial Clergy.

Now that the College was fully established, the transfer of the corporate rights was shortly made to the faculty in 1729, and the Trustees became "The Visitors and Governors of the College of William and Mary, in Virginia."

The first entry in the oldest record-book of the faculty is, "In nomine Dei, Patris, Filii et Spiritus Sancti, Amen." Until the Revolution the Bishops of London, with a single interregnum, were Chancellors of the College. On the 18th of January, 1764, the Earl of Hardwicke had been elected Chancellor; but the intelligence of this did not arrive in England until after his death, of which his son and successor in the title wrote to apprise the Faculty. The Commissaries, too, with one exception, were Presidents of the College, and every Bishop of Virginia has been con-

nected with it. Bishop Meade, in "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia," says: "One thing is set forth in praise of William and Mary which we delight to record, viz: that the hopes and designs of its founders and early benefactors, in relation to its being a nursery of pious ministers, were not entirely disappointed. It is positively affirmed, by those most competent to speak, that the best ministers in Virginia were those educated at the College and sent over to England for ordination. The foreigners were the great scandal of the Church."

The condition upon which twenty thousand acres of land were given to the College was, that the President and Professors should pay annually, on the 5th of November, two copies of Latin verses to the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Dominion of Virginia. That this was complied with, we may infer from the following extract from the Virginia Gazette of November 12th, 1736: "On this day sen'night, being the 5th of November, the President, masters and scholars of William and Mary College went, according to their annual custom, in a body to the Governor's to present his honor with two copies of Latin verses, in obedience to their charter, as a grateful acknowledgment for two valuable tracts of land given the said College by their late King William and Queen Mary. Mr. President delivered the verses to his honor, and two of the young gentlemen spoke them. It is further observed that there were upwards of sixty scholars present, a much greater number than has been any year before since the foundation of the College."

The Colonial Governors, for the most part, took an active interest in the welfare of the College. Lord Botetourt gave a sum of money, the interest of which was sufficient to purchase annually two gold medals—one to be given to the best classical scholar, the other to the best scholar in philosophy. This medal was annually awarded until the Revolution. The first competitors for the Episcopate of

Virginia, the Rev. James Madison and the Rev. Samuel Shield, both received this medal; the former in 1772, the latter in 1773.

The Hon. Robert Boyle, who died in 1691, in his will directed his executors, the Right Hon. Richard, Earl of Burlington, Sir Henry Ashurst, Knight and Baronet, and John Marr, gentleman, "to apply his personal estate to such charitable and pious uses as they in their discretion should think fit." After some litigation in England, in pursuance of a decree of court, the Earl of Burlington and Henry, Lord Bishop of London, agreed, on the 21st of December, 1697, to bestow the charity in Virginia, arranging that the annual rents, subject to ninety pounds, given to Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts, should be paid to the President and Professors of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, for the purpose of maintaining and educating Indian scholars. The fund was invested in an English estate called the Brafferton, and with the proceeds of it the building on the College green, now known as the Brafferton, was erected; and until the Revolution, Indians were supported and educated by this charity. The Westover manuscripts inform us that "during the sanguinary war with the Indians, in which North Carolina had been engaged, Governor Spottswood demanded of the tribes, tributary to Virginia a number of the sons of the chiefs, to be sent to the College of William and Mary, where they served as hostages to keep the peace, and enjoyed the advantage of learning to read and write English, and were instructed in the Christian religion. But on returning to their own people, they relapsed into idolatry and barbarism."

The foundation of President's house was laid on the 31st of July, 1732—the President (the Rev. James Blair), Mr. Dawson (afterwards Commissary of Virginia), Mr. Fry (afterwards Colonel Fry, under whom Washington served), Mr Stith (the historian), and Mr. Fox, laying the first five

bricks in order one after another. During the American Revolution this building was burnt, whilst it was occupied by the French troops, before the siege of Yorktown; but Louis XVI. generously rebuilt it, and about this time presented five or six hundred volumes of great value to the library of the College. The walls, however, had not been much injured by the fire.

The old chapel was first opened on the 28th of June, 1732, and the Rev. James Blair, the President, preached a sermon from the text, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." *Prov.* xxii. 6. In "Old Churches and Families of Virginia," Bishop Meade says: "Williamsburg was once the miniature copy of the Court of St. James, somewhat aping the manners of that royal place, while the old church and its graveyard and the College Chapel were—*si licet cum magnis componere parva*—the Westminster Abbey and the St. Paul's of London, where the great ones were interred." Sir John Randolph was the first person buried in the College Chapel.

The remains of Lord Botetourt rest in the same vault with those of Sir John Randolph.

Peyton Randolph, the President of the first American Congress, and John Randolph, Attorney General of the Crown for the Colony of Virginia, sons of Sir John Randolph; Bishop Madison, the first Bishop of Virginia, and Chancellor Nelson, were also buried in the College Chapel.

In 1726 a duty was laid on liquors by the House of Burgesses, to be applied to the current expenses of the College and for founding scholarships.

In 1717 Mrs. Philarity Giles, of Isle of Wight, left by will her reversionary interest in lands, on the Blackwater in the same county, to the College.

In 1759 a grant was made by the House of Burgesses to the College of the proceeds of the tax on peddlers.

Before the Revolution the following donations were made

to the College for "foundations of scholarships:" General Assembly, one thousand pounds; Col. Edward Hill of Shirly, Charles City, one hundred and fifty pounds; Robert Carter, of Corotoman, fifty pounds; Mrs. Bray, widow of Capt. Thos. Bray, New Kent, two hundred pounds; Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison, of Surrey, three hundred pounds; the Rev. James Blair, five hundred pounds; Philip Lightfoot, Esq., of Sandy Point, five hundred pounds. A gilt cup was presented to the College by Lady Gooch, of England. The Earl of Burlington presented a portrait of his brother, the Hon. Robert Boyle. It is now, with several other interesting portraits, in possession of the College authorities.

Dr. James Blair, a native of Scotland and an Episcopal clergyman, was the first President of the College. He was appointed to the office by the charter. At the instance of the Bishop of London he came as a missionary to Virginia, in 1685. He was appointed Commissary, or Representative of the Bishop in the Colony, in 1689. He revived the project of establishing a College in Virginia, entertained in 1619, but defeated by the Indian massacre in 1622. With justice he may be considered the father of William and Mary College; for his exertions, both in this country and in England, contributed greatly to the success of the enterprise. He died in 1743, after having filled the office of President of the College for half a century.

Before the Revolution the College consisted of a school of Divinity, one of Philosophy, in which Natural Philosophy and Mathematics were taught, a Grammar school for instruction in the Ancient Languages, and an Indian school supported by the donation of the Hon. Robert Boyle, in which, from about the year 1700 to 1776, eight to ten Indians were annually maintained and educated. Some of these Indians came a distance of four hundred miles from the College.

The College long exercised the duties of the office of Surveyor General of the Colony of Virginia; and among the

surveyors appointed by it were George Washington, and Zachary Taylor of Orange, the grandfather of the late General Taylor, President of the United States.

For about seventy years previous to the Revolution, the average number of students was about sixty; from ten to fifteen of whom were received on the scholarships or foundations. At the beginning of the Revolution the number was seventy.

Prior to the Revolution, the annual income of the College, from duties granted in the Charter and by the Colony, from "Boyle's Charity," funded capital and scholarships, was nearly four thousand pounds sterling. In 1776 it was the richest College in North America, and had been the constant recipient of royal colonial and private benefactions. By the Revolution it lost, in consequence of the depreciation of paper money, all of its endowment, save about two thousand five hundred dollars in money, and the then unproductive lands granted by the English Crown.

It furnished to the American Revolution Benjamin Harrison, Carter Braxton, Thomas Nelson and George Wythe, signers of the Declaration; Peyton Randolph, President of the first American Congress; Edmund Randolph, Attorney General and Secretary of State; John Marshall, Chief Justice; Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, Presidents of the United States, and a host of others, among them John Tyler, Senior, Governor of Virginia, John Tayloe of Caroline, the Nelsons, the Blands, the Pages, the Harrisons, the Carters, the Nicholases, the Braxtons, the Grymeses, the Burwells, the Lewises, the Lyonses, the Mercers, the Cockes, the Bollings, the Nicholsons and the Carringtons, whose names are national and historic. Thirty Students and three Professors joined the army during the Revolutionary War.

The following extracts from the proceedings of the Faculty shed light upon the history of the College before the Revolutionary War :

"June 28th, 1732.—The College Chapel was opened. Mr. President (the Rev. Mr. Blair) preached on Proverbs, xxii: 6.

"July 31st, 1732.—The foundation of the President's house at the College was laid. The President, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Fry, Mr. Stith, (afterwards the historian,) and Mr. Fox, laying the first five bricks in order, one after another.

"Jany. y^e 14, 1754. Resolved, Y^t a person be appointed to hear such boys as shall be recommended by their parents or guardians, a chapter in the Bible every school-day, at 12 o'clock, and y^t he have y^e yearly salary of one pistole for each boy so recommended."

"Aug. 29, 1754. Resolved, unanimously, Y^t Mr. Commissary Dawson be allowed y^e use of y^e Hall and great room during y^e meeting of y^e clergy."

"April 2nd, 1756. Y^s day Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, favored y^e society with his company, and had y^e Degree of A. M. conferred upon him by y^e Rev. G. Dawson. A. M., President, to whom he was in public presented by the Rev. William Preston, A. M."

"February 14th, 1772. Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, it was ordered that the students in the philosophy schools shall speak Latin declamations of their composition, and that by two of them in rotation this exercise shall be performed in the chapel immediately after evening service, every second Thursday during term-time.

"July 29th, 1772. That the medal assigned by his Excellency Lord Boteourt, for the encouragement of students in philosophical learning, be given to Mr. Nathaniel Burwell, as being the best proficient. Resolved, that the medal assigned by his lordship for the encouragement of classing learning be given to Mr. James Madison.

"October 14th, 1773. Agreed unanimously, that Mr. Thomas Jefferson be appointed surveyor of Albemarle, in the room of Mr. Nicholas Lewis, who has sent his letter of resignation, and that he be allowed to have a deputy.

From the Statutes of the College, published in 1792:

"Be it ordained, That the drinking of spirituous liquors (except in that moderation which becomes the prudent and industrious student) be prohibited."

From a copy of the Old Laws:

"No other person than a student or other member of the College shall be admitted as a boarder at the College table. No liquors shall be furnished or used at table except beer, cider, toddy, or spirits and water.

"The keeper of the College table shall, on no pretext nor for any consideration, furnish or sell to the students wine or any other spirituous liquors, to be drunk at any other time or place, than at their ordinary meals, as aforesaid."

From Weld's Travels: "The Bishop of Virginia is President of the College, and has apartments in the buildings. Half a dozen or more of the students, the eldest about twelve years of age, dined at his table one day while I was there; some were without shoes or stockings, others without coats. During the dinner, they constantly rose to help themselves *at the sideboard*. A couple of

dishes of salted meat and some oyster soup formed the above dinner. I only mention this, as it may convey some idea of American Colleges and American Dignitaries." [The date of the preface to Weld's Travels is December 20th, 1798.]

The parent society, in this country, of the Phi Beta Kappa was organized at William and Mary College the 5th December, 1776. The first meeting was held in the Apollo Hall of the old Raleigh Tavern of Williamsburg, the room in which the first revolutionary spirit of Virginia was breathed in the burning words of Henry. The original charter of this society is now in the possession of the Historical Society of this State.

Among the names of the original members are to be found the following: William Short, George Braxton, Hartwell Cocke, Spencer Roane, John Page, John Marshall and Bushrod Washington.

When the College broke up in 1781, the Records of the Society were sealed up and placed in the hands of the College Steward, and subsequently they came into the possession of the Historical Society of Virginia. On examination in 1850, it was found that one of the old members—William Short, of Philadelphia—still survived. It was also discovered that he was President of the Society when it was interrupted. Measures were immediately taken to revive it in the College with Mr. Short as the connecting link with the original Society. This was done, and it is now in active operation.

In 1781 the exercises of the College were suspended and the buildings were alternately occupied, the summer before the memorable siege of Yorktown by the British and the French and American troops. Whilst occupied by the latter, the College was injured and the President's house destroyed by fire. This was subsequently rebuilt at the expense of the French government. It does not appear how long the College was closed; probably the exercises were suspended not more than a year. In 1790, there was a respectable number of students.

After the Revolution, the General Assembly of Virginia gave to the College the Palace Lands and the houses upon them, a tract of land near Williamsburg, known as the "Vineyard," and a few acres not far from Jamestown. The organization of the College was now changed. Mr. Jefferson, in his Autobiography, says: On the 1st of June, 1779, I was appointed Governor of the Commonwealth, and retired from the Legislature. Being elected also one of the Visitors of William and Mary College, a self-electing body, I effected during my residence in Williamsburg that year a change in the organization of that institution, by abolishing the Grammar School and the two Professorships of Divinity and Oriental Languages, and substituting a Professorship of Law and Police, one of Anatomy, Medicine and Chemistry, and one of Modern Languages; and the charter confining us to six Professors, we added the Law of Nature and Nations, and the Fine Arts, to the duties of the Moral Professor, and Natural History to those of the Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy." The Indian school was abandoned in consequence of the loss of the manor of Brafferton by the Revolution.

In 1788 George Washington was made Chancellor of the College. His letter of acceptance is as follows:

MOUNT VERNON, *April 30th*, 1788.

DEAR SIR:

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., in which you did me the favor to enclose an extract from the original statute designating the duties of the office to which I had been appointed.

Influenced by a heartfelt desire to promote the cause of science in general and the College of William and Mary in particular, I accept the office of Chancellor of the same, and request you will be pleased to give official notice thereof to the learned body who have thought proper to honor me with the appointment.

I confide fully in their strenuous endeavours for placing the system of education on such a basis as will render it most beneficial to the State and the republic of letters, as well as to the more extensive interests of humanity and religion. In return they will do me the justice to believe that I shall not be

tardy in giving my cheerful concurrence to such measures as may be best calculated for the attainment of those desirable and important objects.

For the expressions of politeness and friendship blended with your communication, I pray you to receive my best acknowledgments. With sentiments of the highest esteem and regard,

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

SAMUEL GRIFFIN, ESQ.,

Rector of the College of William and Mary.

Notwithstanding the depressed and impoverished condition of the College at the termination of the Revolutionary war, it speedily revived, and under the guidance and teachings of Bishop Madison, and his associates, sent forth John Tyler, President of the United States, Littleton Waller Tazewell, William B. Giles, John Randolph, Spencer Roane, Bushrod Washington, John Breckenridge, Archibald Stewart, William Brockenborough, James P. Preston, Robert Stanard, Wm. H. Roane, Robert B. Taylor, George M. Bibb, Wm. T. Barry, William H. Fitzhugh, Philip P. Barbour, Benj. Watkins Leigh, Wm. H. Cabell, Chapman Johnson, Briscoe G. Baldwin, Roger Jones, George Croghan, H. St. Geo. Tucker, John Tayloe Lomax, John Nelson, Wm. S. Archer, John J. Crittenden, John H. Cocke, Powhatan Ellis, Winfield Scott, Wm. C. Rives, and many others of like renown to National and State service.

Since 1835, say twenty-five years of its active existence, (within this time its exercises have been for five years suspended,) the College matriculation book shows an average of seventy-five students who have drunk at the fountains of Philosophy, Literature and Science under the direction of the late Thomas R. Dew, the late Judge N. Beverly Tucker, the Right Rev. John Johns, Bishop of Virginia and their co-laborers and successors, and who have proved themselves in every way worthy of their predecessors, and, in numerous cases, filled important positions in Church and State.

On the night of the 8th February, 1859, at a time when the Alumni of the College were on the eve of celebrating the 166th anniversary of its foundation, the College building, with most of its interesting antiquities was destroyed by accidental fire. The Library containing many curious and rare books, with some manuscripts, chiefly presented by Kings, Archbishops, Bishops and Governors, and the cabinet of apparatus in which were instruments more than a century old, the gift of the Colonial House of Burgesses, were consumed. The mural tablets in the chapel to the memories of Sir John Randolph and Bishop Madison, were also destroyed. Notwithstanding this terrible disaster, the celebration took place. The following is part of an eloquent address delivered on that interesting occasion by a most distinguished and honored Alumnus—the late Ex-President Tyler—at the time of his death Chancellor of the Institution :

Like an aged Nestor, that building has stood until within a few days past, amid civil convulsions which have shaken continents. At the time of its erection, it looked out upon a country in the early infancy of settlement, containing a population in all the English colonies which was not greater than that which at this day is found in the smallest State of the Union. It beheld that population expanding over regions bounded by the two great oceans, to be counted by millions in place of the scattered thousands of that early day. It has seen the colonies shake off the badges of puberty, and put on the *toga virilis*. It saw the Congress before and after it had assembled under the Articles of Confederation, and those articles substituted by the Constitution under which it is now our happiness to live. It re-echoed the words of the forest-born Demosthenes in 1765, asserting the rights of America to be "Natural, Constitutional and Chartered," and in thunder-tones at an after day, its walls resounded to the words "Liberty or Death," uttered by the same eloquent lips. Itself an offspring of the Revolution of 1688, its sons were the warm and enthusiastic advocates of that of 1776.

Under the influence of its teachings its students threw aside for a season their volumes, and girded on the sword to do battle in the great cause of liberty.

The calm and silver-toned voice of philosophy heard within its walls, has been oftimes hushed by the clangor of drums and trumpets.

At one time it gave reluctant shelter to the British troops as they passed on to Yorktown; and soon after its gates were opened wide to give willing and

exultant reception to the troops with their tattered banners which followed Cornwallis to his last retreat.

Its walls were alternately shaken by the thunder of the cannon at Yorktown, and by the triumphant shouts of the noble bands who had fought and conquered in the name of American Independence.

The boy had gone forth with the surveyor's staff, which it had placed in his hands, into the wilderness of the West, and now returned the hero and the conqueror, and once more stood within its walls, surrounded by the chivalry of France and America, wearing on his brow imperishable laurels, and making the name of Washington foremost on the rolls of fame.

If her catalogue closed with the names of those who belong to the dead generations, might not William and Mary take her place among her sister Universities proudly and rightfully? But it bears the names of men of living generations, who add to her renown. In the various pursuits of life they perform well their several parts. The pulpit from which are uttered those great truths so essential for time and eternity, resounds with their eloquence; while on the bench of justice, at the legal forum, in the State Legislatures, in the National Councils, in the active marts of commerce, in the pursuits of agriculture, in the tented camps, their names are honored, their attainments respected, and their opinions and examples, quoted and followed.

The following is extracted from a report made to the Faculty of William and Mary at a meeting on the 8th February, 1860, one year after its destruction by fire, on the general condition of the College.

The new College edifice has been completed, and fully furnished. On the 11th October, 1859, the capstone of the building was laid by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and the College exercises have been conducted in it without interruption from the beginning of the present session. The buildings are in every way suitable, and in an eminent degree convenient and comfortable. The lecture rooms are furnished with all the appliances for illustration in the several departments of instruction. The Philosophical apparatus is very complete. The walls of the lecture rooms of Natural Science are hung with valuable pictorial diagrams. The department of Chemistry is well provided with chemicals and instruments for experiment and research. The lecture room of history has been provided with a full set of the most valuable mural maps, geographical and historical, on the largest scale and of the most accurate construction.

The Literary societies of the College have been provided with large and handsome halls, which are furnished in the most comfortable manner. To each of these is attached an apartment for library and reading room.

The chapel has been restored, and the remains of its illustrious dead still lie undisturbed within its walls.

The library has been conveniently and handsomely furnished with cases for books, and already contains about six thousand volumes, obtained partly by purchase, and partly by the donations of public spirited individuals.

Thus within one year the losses by the fire of February 8th, 1859, have in every material point of view, been completely restored; and in all the essentials of its building, furniture, apparatus and library, the College is now in a better condition than it was on that day.

In addition it may be stated that the funds were ample to sustain a full Faculty, and the prospects for the future in every way encouraging.

Early in May, 1861, the actual existence of war at its very threshold rendered it necessary to suspend the College exercises and to close its doors. The building was soon after seized by the military, and used first as a barrack and next as a hospital, until the evacuation of Williamsburg in May, 1862. Williamsburg is to a force holding James and York rivers the strategic point of the peninsula.

The tides in deep creeks, emptying into the James and the York, and flanked by impassable morasses, ebb and flow within a mile of the city. The position is a narrow gorge, where the roads from above and below converge into a single one, passing directly through the place. It was, therefore, held by the United States army in the Peninsula from the time of Gen'l McClellan's advance on Richmond till the close of the war, almost without intermission, as an important post. At times, however, it was debatable ground, and was alternately in the possession of the contending forces. A conflict occurred on the 9th September, 1862, between a detachment of Confederate cavalry and the United States garrison, then consisting of the 5th regiment Pennsylvania cavalry, in which the latter was worsted. The Confederates took possession of the town early in the day, but withdrew in a few hours. After they had retired, (by 11 A. M. of the same day all had gone,) returning stragglers of the garrison, provoked by their defeat, under the influence of drink and before organization, or subordination was restored, fired and destroyed the prin-

ciple building, with furniture and apparatus. For this, it is believed, no authority was given by the officers in command.

At later periods of the war all the remaining houses on the College premises and the enclosures were burned, or pulled entirely to pieces, or greatly injured.

The vaults in the College chapel were broken open and robbed of the silver plates attached to the coffins, and of whatever else of value they were found to contain. This desecration was checked, as is stated, when it became known to the military commander.

These facts are fully substantiated by the affidavits of eye-witnesses.

It will require at least eighty thousand dollars to repair these losses and restore the College to what it was in 1860.

At a convocation of the Board of Visitors and Governors held during the month of August, 1865, in Richmond, it was determined to re-open the College at the usual time for beginning the session, to repair some of the College buildings for recitation rooms, and to provide other accommodations necessary for the students. This was done, and sufficient temporary arrangements made.

At the same time a Grammar School was established, to be under the care and supervision of the Faculty.

The wisdom of this action is abundantly confirmed by the result. At this time, January 15th, 1866, there is a Grammar School in successful operation. The numbers composing the College classes exceed the anticipations of the most sanguine; nearly sixty attend the Academic exercises.

The College of William and Mary, as well by its past history as its capacity for future usefulness, has a just claim to the sympathy and aid of the friends of learning, wherever they are to be found.

The following is from the address before quoted:

The associations which cluster around this locality, render it peculiarly appropriate for a seat of learning. Can the young heart maintain a quiet pulse in wandering amid the ruins which tell of a glorious past, and everywhere

meet his eye? Will he not gather from the very fragments which lie scattered over the earth at Jamestown, almost in sight of this spot, a lesson never to be forgotten, inspiring him with courage and perseverance in the great battle of life?

Will not these fragments tell him a tale of hardship and suffering on the part of the early settlers unequaled in the history of his race, and of an ultimate triumphant conclusion more grand in its results than fancy ever sketched or poet in rapt imagination ever sang?

Will not that broken steeple, reared centuries ago in honor of the living God, preach to him like an aged minister, and impress upon his heart the all-governing truth that without Divine assistance nothing great and nothing good can ever be accomplished?

Does he seek incentives to an ardent and burning patriotism? Let him visit the ruins of the old capitol, and ponder there until his heart expands and his lips give utterance to that exclamation which aroused a continent from slumber.

Let him, then, find his way to the Apollo Hall of the old Raleigh Tavern, and mix with the noble spirits in their deep deliberations on the great crises that had arisen. Those who assembled there were for the most part his elder brothers, sons of the same Alma Mater.

In a few hours thereafter he may find himself wandering over the entrenchments at Yorktown, behind which British power made its last defence.

These memorials of the mighty past are not dead and voiceless. They speak more eloquently than the Roman or Athenian of old before the Senate or Assembly of the people. They tell of past glory and are the oracles that unveil the future. Sinking deep into the heart of youth, they inspire it with the lofty desires which make ambition virtue.

The oldest, save one, of all the Literary Institutions of the United States, William and Mary has contributed its full share to the public enlightenment, and made a mark in history which neither fire can consume nor dust nor ashes obscure. Thrice now has its genius been driven by cruel flames from the edifices erected for her abode. To-day she is banished from her ancient temple; that temple is now in ruins.

Surely these hallowed walls, in which the calm voice of Philosophy has for so many generations been heard, will not be allowed to stand through future ages a blackened monument of the desolations of war, and a reproach to our age and people. On the contrary, new and more beautiful temples will arise to receive and welcome the genius of education, and to foster that Philosophy and those Arts and Sciences, the achievements of which it is the glory of a nation to honor as the noblest victories of peace.

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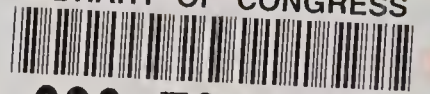
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